

REMARKS

Claim 3 has been amended to recite that the aromatic hydrocarbon is basically C₉ or C₁₀-based, which means that the aromatic hydrocarbon may consist only of C₉ or C₁₀ aromatic hydrocarbon or may be a mixture of C₉ or C₁₀ aromatic hydrocarbon and minor components other than C₉ or C₁₀ aromatic hydrocarbon, such as basically C₉ alkylbenzene-based mixed solvents and basically C₁₀ alkylbenzene-based mixed solvents listed on page 11 of the present application. Claim 3 has also been amended to delete the recitations added at the end of that claim in the last Amendment (i.e., the recitations of original claim 10) and to incorporate the recitations of claim 11, and claim 11 has been canceled accordingly. Claim 15 has been added directed to the recitations deleted from claim 3 (i.e., the recitations of original claim 10), and claim 16 has been added directed to the recitations at the end of claim 13 (i.e., based on the disclosure at, e.g., page 18, lines 3-9 and in the Examples in the present application).

Entry of the above amendment is respectfully requested.

Advantageous Effects of the Present Invention

Initially, Applicants note that an object to be removed by the photosensitive composition remover of the present invention is a photosensitive composition containing a pigment. A conventional remover is effective in dissolving and removing a resin component constituting a photosensitive composition, but it is not so effective in dispersing and removing a pigment. In other words, when a substrate coated with a photosensitive composition is cleaned by a conventional remover, there is a problem where only a resin component is dissolved and removed but a pigment precipitates and deposits or agglomerates. The remover having a

composition prescribed in the present invention can dissolve and remove a resin component without precipitating, depositing or agglomerating a pigment. The present inventors studied various compositions as a remover, and found that a remover having a composition prescribed in the present invention is effective in removing a photosensitive composition containing a pigment.

Obviousness Rejection over Wyatt et al. (US Pg-Pub 2003/0118946)

On page 2 of the Office Action, in paragraph 4, claims 3, 11-12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wyatt et al. (US Pg-Pub 2003/0118946).

In response, Applicants note initially that US 2003/0118946 A1 is substantially the same as USP 6,162,593 cited in the first Office Action dated May 1, 2008, and discloses a developing solution comprising diisopropylbenzene. Diisopropylbenzene is an aromatic hydrocarbon having 12 carbon atoms.

In the response to the first Office Action dated May 1, 2008, claim 3 was amended to limit "the other solvent other than aprotic polar solvents" to solvents other than aprotic polar solvents described in original claim 10 in order to patentably distinguish the present invention from USP 6,162,593. However, the Examiner has rejected the amended claim again.

Therefore, in response to the outstanding Office Action, Applicants have amended claim 3 to include the requirement that "the aromatic hydrocarbon is basically C₉ or C₁₀-based" in order to patentably distinguish the present invention from US 2003/0118946 A1. The expression "basically C₉ or C₁₀-based" means that the aromatic hydrocarbon may consist only of C₉ or C₁₀ aromatic hydrocarbon or may be a mixture of C₉ or C₁₀ aromatic hydrocarbon and minor

components other than C₉ or C₁₀ aromatic hydrocarbon, such as basically C₉ alkylbenzene-based mixed solvents and basically C₁₀ alkylbenzene-based mixed solvents listed on page 11 of the present application.

Applicants submit that the above-mentioned proposed amendment patentably distinguishes the present invention from US 2003/0118946 A1. Therefore, Applicants have also amended claim 3 to delete the limitation of the other solvent other than aprotic polar solvents, which was added in the response to the first Office Action. In connection with that deletion, Applicants have added dependent claim 15, which has the same recitations as original claim 10.

Thus, Applicants submit that the invention recited in the amended claims is not obvious over Wyatt et al., and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Obviousness Rejection over Wyatt et al. (US Pg-Pub 2003/0118946) in view of Dhillon

On page 4 of the Office Action, in paragraph 5, claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wyatt et al. (US Pg-Pub 2003/0118946) in view of Dhillon (US Patent 4,822,723).

In response, Applicants note initially that the Examiner again cites US 2003/0118946 A1 (Wyatt et al.) also in order to reject claim 6.

Applicants believe the above-mentioned amendment adding the requirement "the aromatic hydrocarbon is basically C₉ or C₁₀-based" to claim 3 will overcome the rejection of claim 6, particularly since Dhillon does not make up for this deficiency of Wyatt et al.

Thus, Applicants submit that the invention recited in the amended claims is not obvious over Wyatt et al. in view of Dhillon, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Obviousness Rejection over Koyanagi et al. in view of Bantu et al.

On page 5 of the Office Action, in paragraph 6, claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koyanagi et al. (WO 03/072634, wherein the citations are from the English equivalent document US Pg-Pub 2005/0153530) in view of Bantu et al. (US Patent 5,268,260).

In response, Applicants note initially that Koyanagi et al. relate to photosensitive resins, resin compositions and products of curing thereof, and their disclosure is characterized by the structure of the resin. They disclose specific examples of a developer for these resin compositions that include the same solvents as recited in claim 13 of the present application. However, as the Examiner recognizes, they fail to disclose that such solvents may be used in combination/mixture as a developer.

The Examiner indicates that Bantu et al. relating to a photoresist developer disclose that mixtures of solvents may be used as developer, and considers that claim 13 would have been obvious from the combination of Koyanagi et al. and Bantu et al.

However, neither Bantu et al. nor Koyanagi et al. disclose a combination ratio when a mixture of solvents is used.

As stated above, the present inventors found a composition which can dissolve and remove a resin component without precipitating, depositing or agglomerating a pigment. Therefore, the composition of the developer, i.e., the combination ratio of components of the developer, is crucial. Neither Bantu et al. nor Koyanagi et al. disclose or suggest a combination

ratio of an aromatic hydrocarbon having 9 carbon atoms or more within the molecule and an other solvent other than aprotic polar solvents.

Therefore, Applicants submit that the present invention would not have been obvious from the combination of Koyanagi et al. and Bantu et al., and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Obviousness Rejection over Kasuya et al.

On page 6 of the Office Action, in paragraph 7, claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kasuya et al. (US Patent 6,002,895).

In response, Applicants note initially that Kasuya et al. relate to a toner for developing electrostatic latent images, used in an image forming process such as electrophotography or electrostatic printing, and a process cartridge having such a toner. Further, they disclose Solvesso 100, Solvesso 150, cyclohexanone, n-butyl acetate and the like as examples of a solvent used for preparing a resin composition constituting the toner.

However, Applicants submit that these solvents are listed only as examples of a solvent used for preparing a resin composition constituting the toner. In other words, Kasuya et al. does not disclose or suggest preventing a pigment from precipitating, depositing or agglomerating when removing a photosensitive composition containing a pigment.

Moreover, it is submitted that even if one were to use a combination of solvents disclosed in Kasuya, the particular amounts recited in claim 13 are not taught or suggested by the art. Further, since the solvents cited by the Examiner are for use when the solutions for Kasuya's resin composition are mixed (see column 18, lines 39-40), and are not for use as a photosensitive

composition remover for removing uncured photosensitive composition as recited in claim 13, one would not have arrived at the particular amounts recited in claim 13 by routine experimentation.

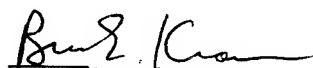
Therefore, it is submitted that the present invention would not have been obvious from Kasuya et al., and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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